

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

By the current Amendment, claims 1 and non-elected claims 8 and 9 have been canceled, claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten in independent form, and claim 7 has been amended.

The instant invention pertains to a folding mechanism for folding a baby carriage, wherein the folding mechanism can be operated, and the baby carriage can be folded, by merely rotating a casing of the folding mechanism. Such a folding mechanism exhibits benefits relative to known folding mechanisms in that because the baby carriage can be folded by merely rotating the casing, the user's hand never needs to be removed from the baby carriage to cause folding of the baby carriage, and the user's other hand is not required to fold the baby carriage.

With reference to Figure 7, the folding mechanism comprises a casing (not shown), first and second pipes (not shown) connected to opposite ends of the casing via hinged joints (not shown), with each of the hinged joints including an inner member (not shown) adjacent to the casing and an outer member 35a, 35b adjacent to a respective one of the first and second pipes, with each outer member being pivotable relative to a corresponding inner member. The folding mechanism also includes actuating structure for pivoting each of the outer members 35a, 35b relative to a corresponding inner member such that the baby carriage can be folded or unfolded, wherein the actuating structure is disposed between the casing and each outer member. The folding member further includes an operating member 53 provided on the casing, along with a pulley 56 also provided on the casing, wherein the pulley is constructed and arranged to be turned by the operating member. The actuating structure comprises an actuating member 62 slidably received within the casing, and having opposite ends pivotally connected to the outer members 35a, 35b of the hinged joints at eccentric positions of the outer members. The actuating member 62 also has one of a slot and a projection for engagement with the pulley 56. Because of this structure, the pulley 56 can be turned by the operating member 53, and as a result, the actuating member 62 can be slid so that the outer members 35a and 35b can be turned in opposite directions so as to fold the baby carriage.

Claim 5 is believed to be representative of this inventive baby carriage folding mechanism.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai in view of Onishi; and claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated, and accordingly, allowable claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. The rejection on of claim 5 is respectfully traversed, and accordingly, this claim has also been rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 is believed to be allowable over the references relied upon for the following reasons.

Claim 5 requires a folding mechanism for a baby carriage that comprises a casing, first and second pipes connected to opposite ends of the casing via hinged joints, with each of the hinged joints including an inner member and an outer member pivotable relative to the inner member, actuating structure for pivoting each outer member relative to a corresponding inner member, an operating member on the casing, and a pulley on the casing which is constructed and arranged to be turned by the operating member, wherein the actuating structure comprises an actuating member slidably received within the casing, with

said actuating member having opposite ends pivotally
connected to said outer members of said hinge
joints at eccentric positions of said outer members...

Such a folding mechanism is not taught or suggested by neither of the references relied upon by the Examiner, either taken alone or in combination.

In this regard, while Arai does disclose a pulley 5 and a wire 3 connected to the pulley, Arai does not disclose that the wire has **opposite ends pivotably connected to the outer members of hinge joints at eccentric positions of the outer members**, as required by claim 5. Indeed, one end of the wire 3 is connected to the pulley while another end is connected to slider 18. Thus, Arai does not disclose or suggest an actuating member that has opposite ends connected to eccentric portions of outer members that are pivotable relative to inner members.

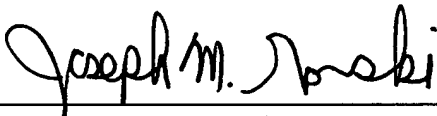
Onishi does not resolve this deficiency of Arai, and accordingly, claim 5 is allowable over these references either taken alone or in combination.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 2-7, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please note that claim 7 should be allowed along with claims 5 and 6, because claim 5 is generic for claim 7.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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